

Message Text

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PAGE 01 TOKYO 02737 280941Z
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 EA-07 ISO-00 PM-04 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 CIAE-00
INR-07 NSAE-00 CU-02 USIE-00 DODE-00 SSO-00 INRE-00
NSCE-00 /055 W
-----280945 070471 /22

O 280905Z FEB 77
FM AMEMBASSY TOKYO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 5748
INFO AMEMBASSY BONN PRIORITY
USAREUR HEIDELBERG GERMANY PRIORITY
USNATO BRUSSELS IMMEDIATE 0337

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USAREUR ALSO FOR POLAD

DEPARTMENT PASS USIA, DOD

DEPARTMENT FOR EA/J, EUR/RPM, CU/EA, CU/WE

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PINT, MILI, JA
SUBJECT: JAPANESE POLITICIANS PLAN NATO VISIT

SUMMARY. FORMER DEFENSE AGENCY DIRGEN RAIZO MATSUNO
PLANS SUPRA-PARTISAN DIET MISSION VISIT TO NATO AND
US BASES IN GERMANY FOR ABOUT TWO WEEKS FROM
MARCH 15. HE WOULD APPRECIATE INVITATION AND
FACILITATIVE ASSISTANCE. EMBASSY RECOMMENDS THESE BE
PROVIDED. END SUMMARY.

1. LEADING LEBIERAL DEMOCRATIC PARTY POLITICIAN AND
FORMER DIRGEN OF JAPAN DEFENSE AGENCY RAIZO MATSUNO,
TOLD EMBOFF FEBRUARY 25 HE HOPED TO LEAD 3-4 DIET MEMBER
GROUP TO EUROPE FOR VISIT TO NATO AND, IF POSSIBLE, ONE
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OR TWO US BASES IN GERMANY. STATED PURPOSE WOULD BE TO
IMPROVE GROUP'S UNDERSTANDING OF NATO ORGANIZATION AND
STRATEGY AND ROLE OF TACTICAL NUCLEAR WEAPONS IN WEST'S
DEFENSE. WE SUSPECT GROUP'S PURPOSE ALSO RELATED TO
MATSUNO'S OWN DESIRE TO ENCOURAGE JAPANESE TO ACCEPT
FULLY OWN SELF DEFENSE FORCES AND OVERCOME PERSISTENT
"NUCLEAR ALLERGY." IT MAY ALSO BE RELATED TO PERCEPTION

AMONG SOME JAPANESE THAT US INCREASING CONTRIBUTIONS TO NATO AT EXPENSE OF EAST ASIAN COMMITMENTS.

2. GROUP WOULD CONSIST OF MATSUNO, EIICHI NAGASUE, DEFENSE EXPERT OF SECURITY CONSCIOUS DEMOCRATIC SOCIALIST PARTY, A MEMBER OF LEFT-MODERATE CLEAN GOVERNMENT PARTY AND PERHAPS ONE OTHER YET TO BE CHOSEN.

3. MATSUNO SAID GROUP PLANNED ABOUT TWO-WEEK STUDY TOUR, DEPARTING JAPAN AROUND MARCH 15. HE ASKED, ON BEHALF OF GROUP, FOR INVITATION TO VISIT NATO AND FACILITATIVE ASSISTANCE DURING VISIT. HE ALSO REQUESTED THAT WE RESPOND BY MARCH 3, IF POSSIBLE.

4. COMMENT. WE BELIEVE VISIT WOULD FIT IN WELL WITH OTHER EFFORTS TO ENCOURAGE TRILATERAL APPROACHES TO COMMON PROBLEMS AND ENHANCE JAPAN-WESTERN EUROPE DIALOGUE. RECOMMEND FAVORABLE RESPONSE TO MATSUNO'S REQUEST. COULD USNATO ARRANGE INVITATION AND PROVIDE FACILITATIVE ASSISTANCE ALONG LINES OF USG-SPONSORED NATO TOURS FOR THIRD COUNTRY POLITICIANS? WE RECOGNIZE EXTREMELY SHORT LEAD TIME, BUT VAGARIES OF DIET SESSION HAVE PRECLUDED MUCH ADVANCE PLANNING. ACCORDINGLY, WOULD MUCH APPRECIATE EVEN PRELIMINARY REACTION AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PARTY LEADERS, VISITS, MILITARY BASES
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Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977TOKYO02737
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770068-0404
Format: TEL
From: TOKYO
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
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Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t1977021/aaaaaavl.tel
Line Count: 88
Litigation Code IDs:
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Litigation History:
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Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 25-Oct-2004 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3227971
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: JAPANESE POLITICIANS PLAN NATO VISIT SUMMARY. FORMER DEFENSE AGENCY DIRGEN RAIZO MATSUNO PLANS SUPRA-PARTISAN DIET MISSION VISIT TO NATO AN
TAGS: PINT, MILI, OVIP, JA, US, (MATSUNO, RAIZO)
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/d0361fbf-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009